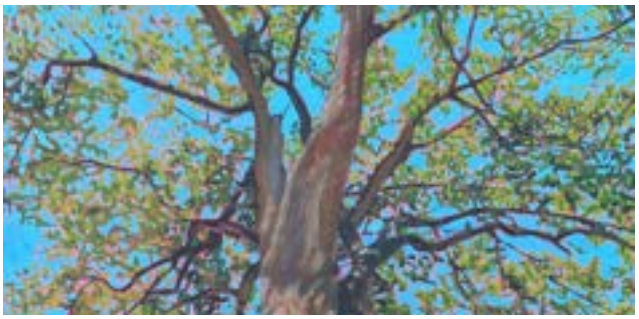
Erin Tree Trust presents

2026

"Tree of the Year"



Celebrating Erin's 2026 "Tree of the Year" Art Show & Sale

September 22, 2026 - November 2, 2026

@ Town of Erin Municipal Office ~ ART WALL

5684 Trafalgar Rd, Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1T0

Open weekdays (Mon - Fri): 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (except holidays)

A one of a kind art show! Enjoy viewing the over *30 original works* created by *27 artists*, all interpreting and celebrating the resilience, beauty, and community presence of ***"Henry,"*** the beloved 160+ year-old American Elm.

presented by ***Erin Tree Trust***
www.treetrust.ca/erin/

treetrust.ca

WELCOME! On behalf of Erin Tree Trust team of volunteers, we welcome you to this art show and sale. Erin Tree Trust is pleased to present and celebrate the Town of Erin's 2026 first ever, "Tree of the Year" with this dedicated Art Show & Sale.

A celebration of art and the environment and to honour the Town of Erin's very first "Tree of the Year." The inaugural winning tree, a more than 160-year-old American Elm fondly named Henry, captured nearly 60% of all votes cast. To celebrate this landmark elder tree, artists submitted original works interpreting Henry's resilience, beauty, and presence in the community.

The resulting curated exhibition features 32+ works by 27 artists from across Ontario and spanning a range mediums, with the majority of art work available for purchase.

Warm regards,

Susan & Hannah

Susan Powell (Erin Tree Trust) & Hannah Hiemstra (Tree Trust)

Artwork Purchase Guidelines

- **Availability:** All works are available for purchase unless explicitly marked otherwise.
- **Direct Sales:** Purchases must be made directly through contact with the individual artist.
- **Contact Method:** Each artist's name and artwork description includes a dedicated contact email address in the back of the catalogue.
- **Facilitation:** Erin Tree Trust volunteers will help connect you with the artist to assist with your purchase.

NOTE: The *"Tree of the Year"* art show will continue on exhibit from September 24 - November 2, 2026 at the Town of Erin Municipal Office, 5684 Trafalgar Rd, Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1T0. Open weekdays (Mon - Fri): 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (except holidays).

Thank you and enjoy the show!

ARTISTS

BRIDGET RYAN



I have created this art piece to commemorate and honour Henry the American Elm whose strong presence has welcomed locals and visitors at the western gate to Erin Village since the early 1920's. Henry has witnessed many changes from his particular view as a Village Guardian, providing shade, beauty and weather mitigation, a leafy home to birds and wildlife and a sense of place to local residents. All of the materials used to create "Oh, Henry!" have been gathered or salvaged locally, intended to carry forward a message of the importance of protecting and respecting our natural resources and a wide understanding of the importance of our elder trees within a resilient community.

Henry has stood witness, watching while our farmers changed from horses working the land to farming using fuel-powered equipment, the car replacing the horse as transportation and trucks replacing the train for the transportation of goods and services and as telephone wires were added to further our communication. Henry has withstood the test of time, escaping the deadly Dutch Elm disease that took down so many elms since 1920, and continues to act as a beacon to those who believe in natural heritage stewardship for building a resilient, green, Erin.
Oh Henry, mixed media, **NFS**

CAMILLE HUTTON



Painting A Portrait Of an Elm, is inspired by the Tree of the year. I am over joyed to see some remaining large elms in our community, especially since I have watch many of the large Elms die on our farm die over the last decades.

A Portrait Of an Elm, oil
24” X 24”
$500



When I think about the history of trees in our local landscape I have a hard time imaging a time when Elm trees dominated the forests. In this piece have focused on the ghost of the elms that would have once dominated our forest.

Memories of Giants
16” X 20”
oil
$1,000

CAROL HUGHES



I titled this watercolour and ink sketch "In Honour of Henry" for the name of the tree and because I knew Henry Koch, who was an inspiration for many of us. I served on an environmental committee with him many years ago in Eden Mills.

In Honour of Henry, 18’ X 15” X1 “
watercolour/ink
$300

CHRISTINE CURRIE



My connection to the late Henry Koch began decades ago as a tree-loving client during the early days of the University of Guelph Arboretum sale, where his passion for native plants and the American Elm deeply inspired me. It is a tremendous honour to now contribute this heavy-body acrylic painting to Tree Trust in celebration of Erin’s Tree of the Year, "Henry," named in his memory. Through a bold use of texture and vibrant earthy colour on gallery-depth canvas, Henry, the American Elm, highlights the tree’s enduring strength and spirit through its distinctive

trunk and the resilience that allowed this favourite specimen to withstand Dutch Elm Disease. Rather than rendering a literal landscape, a bright tapestry of impressionistic dots and gestural blotches evokes the surrounding sky, leaves, and grasses. This composition celebrates the tree's legacy as a natural sanctuary, paying specific homage to its deep appeal to Baltimore Orioles, who seek out its high canopy. Ultimately, this piece stands as a tribute to both a magnificent living specimen with critical environmental significance and the visionary champion who dedicated his life to its protection.
Henry, the American Elm 14” x11” x1.5”, acrylic, **$200**

DEB DUNN



Gather around Henry, our tree of the year. Welcoming those from far and near. Come celebrate how special he is to all of us here at the Erin Tree Trust! I begin all my paintings by lightly jotting down my thoughts in pencil on the canvas before I add the paint. These are the words written to honour Henry and how special he is.

Honouring Henry, acrylic
8” X 20”
$125



Goodnight Henry, acrylic,
8” X 20”
$125

"You greet visitors and residents with a welcoming presence all day. Now it's time to rest. Good night, Henry. When it comes to trees, we think you're the very best!

All my paintings begin with lightly writing my thoughts down in pencil before I begin to add paint. These are the sentiments I thought of when painting Goodnight Henry.

DONNA BIGONZI



Henry captures a vibrant, sunlit moment along a country road in the Town of Erin, celebrating the enduring presence and quiet majesty of one of the community's cherished mature trees. Positioned proudly beside the roadway, "Henry" stands as a living landmark, anchoring the landscape beneath a wide, sweeping sky filled with textured, luminous clouds.
Henry, acrylic, 24” X 24” X1.5”, **$60**



Using expressive brushwork and a rich, grounded palette of leafy greens, warm earth tones, and luminous blues, this piece highlights the vitality and character of veteran trees preserved by the Tree Trust. The dappled sunlight stretching across the road invites viewers into a familiar rural scene, celebrating the vital intersection between nature, community heritage, and environmental stewardship. Whereas the first painting is more of a realistic interpretation, the latter is more free form and self-expression. *Henry, Weathering the Storm,* acrylic, 8” X 10” X1.5”, **$225**

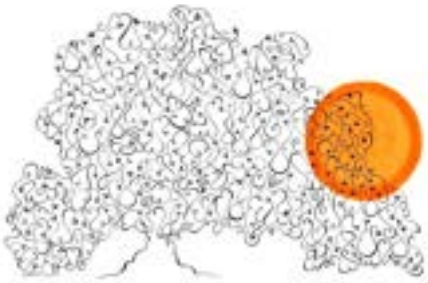
EMMA BRAMMA SMITH



I have wanted to join this call for entry and must admit that my illustration will not be finished until mid morning , August 16, 2026.
My rendition of Henry focused on the spiritual significance of the elm to the town as well as the flora and fauna the elm provides shelter and cohabitation for. The border details will jump from the page as I colour this morning.

Henry - Guardian, 16.6” x 21”, ink and watercolour, **NFS**

FARIBA KALANTARI



My work explores immigration, home, and belonging; the search for place and identity that defines so much of the immigrant experience. Through visual narratives drawn from memory, I process my own journey: the dislocation of leaving, the slow work of adaptation, and the complex, unfinished question of where one truly belongs.

The Old Oak," the work presented in this application, grew out of that same question of belonging. A tree takes decades to become what it is, rooted slowly, shaped by conditions it did not choose, standing among countless seeds that never took hold. I think of my own arrival as an immigrant to Canada: a slow, uncertain rooting in unfamiliar ground, built one season at a time. The drawing is not just about survival, but about what it means to grow old in a place you were not born into, and to call it home.

The Old Tree (Oak), 9” X 12”, ink on paper. **$450**

FIROUZEH SAREMI FAR



Eight Vice Versa Roots in the Sky reflects my ongoing exploration of nature as a space of healing, resilience, and transformation. Inspired by the quiet strength of trees, the sculpture imagines roots extending upward into the sky, dissolving the boundary between what is hidden beneath the earth and what reaches toward the light. This inversion suggests that growth is not always visible; resilience is often rooted in unseen foundations.

The work resonates with the story of Henry, the American Elm, whose enduring presence embodies memory, survival, and connection across generations. Like elder trees that witness the passage of time, this sculpture considers the tree as both a living archive and a source of renewal. It reminds us that strength is not only found in standing tall but also in the intricate, invisible networks that sustain life. Through steel; a material associated with permanence and endurance, I seek to express the delicate relationship between humanity and the natural world. Eight Vice Versa Roots in the Sky invites viewers to pause, reflect, and imagine a world in which our connection to nature becomes a source of restoration, reminding us that even in times of uncertainty, life continues to reach toward light.

Eight Vice Versa Roots in the Sky , 34.4” h , steel. **$2,000**

HUAN ZHAO



Living Light is a meditation on the quiet strength of ancient trees and the enduring spirit they embody. Inspired by Henry, the Town of Erin's Tree of the Year, the sculpture reimagines the tree in glass, a material that appears delicate yet is born from earth and transformed through fire.

Like an elder tree, glass holds a quiet resilience. Though transparent and seemingly fragile, it carries immense strength, bearing the memory of its own transformation. As light passes through the sculpture, the tree shifts throughout the day, glass revealing changing layers of form, shadow, and reflection. The work comes fully alive through illumination, inviting viewers to slow down and experience light as a living presence rather than simply a means of seeing.

For me, trees are silent witnesses. They outlive generations, holding stories, memories, and traces of those who have passed beneath their branches. Living Light reflects on this enduring relationship between nature and humanity, suggesting that resilience is not always loud or visible. Like light moving through glass, it is often quiet, persistent, and transformative.

Through the union of glass and light, the work celebrates Henry not only as a remarkable tree, but as a symbol of continuity, connection, and hope—an enduring presence that reminds us that even the most fragile things can carry extraordinary strength.

Living Light, glass, 8” X 5.5” X 5.5”. **$1,200**

INDRA DOSANJH



This artwork was inspired by Henry, a 100-year-old American Elm tree, who was voted Tree of the Year by 182 members of the Erin community. Recently, I have been photographing trees with distinctive forms and character, and Henry immediately captured my attention. His tall trunk and expressive, reaching branches offered both a compelling subject and an opportunity to explore the relationship between nature, memory, and abstraction.

As a mixed-media artist, I often incorporate my original handprinted collage papers as abstracted layers beneath the painted surface. For this work, however, I chose to make the collage a central visual element. Created through a unique experimental process, the handmade papers introduce rich texture, fragmented pattern, and subtle shifts of colour that interact with the acrylic painting.

The result is a contemporary interpretation of an enduring natural form, one that celebrates Henry not simply as a tree, but as a living presence with a history, character, and story of its own.

Oh Henry, 36” X 24”, mixed medium
$1,800

JAMIE REAUME



Rise Up!, 18” X 12”X1.5, colour photography
$150

JUANITA LANDON



This piece was influenced by William Wordsworth's poem 'The World is too Much with Us'. He lived through the First Industrial Revolution and feared how inventions were changing our respect for nature. How far we have come since then! So what is next? May we never replace trees like Henry.

" What's Next", 19" X 15" X 1", mixed media,
$750

JO COST



Old Elm in Early Fall, 18x14 inches
$150

KARIN SILVERSTONE



My landscapes explore memory, nostalgia, and our evolving connection to place. The aged lath recalls an era before drywall, while vintage wallpapers evoke domestic histories and generations past. Influenced by Marcel Proust's concept of involuntary memory, I am interested in how sensory encounters—a landscape, a tree, a familiar texture—can unexpectedly awaken deeply embedded memories. The materials themselves become catalysts for remembrance, inviting viewers to reconnect with personal experiences of nature. This piece encourages contemplation, asking viewers not only to revisit their own memories of the natural world, but also to consider the

importance of preserving both the landscapes that shape us and the histories embedded within the materials we leave behind.
Elm Study, 20” diameter, mixed media, **$700**

KASIA CHARKO



Henry, 36” X 36”, acrylic
$1,000

LYNNE HURAS



As a Canadian landscape painter, my work is driven by a deep focus on the structure and strong presence of trees. Painting "Henry," the historic American Elm in Erin, is an opportunity to document a remarkable living landmark and reflect on our relationship with our natural heritage. Through my art, I aim to highlight the distinct character of individual trees and support the ongoing conservation work of Tree Trust Canada.

Hello Henry, 40” X 16” X 1.5, acrylic, **$950**

MEIKE BRUCKER



Both of my art pieces are of Henry the American Elm. They are both acrylic paintings on canvas. The first piece is created using the pointillism technique. The second piece is created with one continuous line per colour. Both art pieces show the beauty of Henry!
Henry in Lines and *Henry in Dots*
Both pieces are 24” X 18” X 1, acrylic, **$125 each**



MEREDYTH KUTT



Peering through the branches of the great elm tree, warm dappled light mottling its green leaves, Through Henry's Branches celebrates Henry, the gigantic over 100+ year old American Elm iconic of Erin, Ontario. Taking the position of the relaxed viewer sitting beneath the canopy on a blue skied summer day, this painting reminisces the view shared by many over this storied trees long life.
Through Henry’s Branches
24” X 18 X 1.5, oil
$250.00

SOLD

MIKE SALISBURY



Skyward Elm – Forest for the Trees #4 is composed from a single hand-drawn line. Through subtle variations in line weight and density, the composition reveals the intricate architecture of a towering elm, carrying the eye skyward through its trunk and branching canopy.

The work invites a slower way of seeing.

From a distance, the drawing resolves into the powerful image of an ancient elm. As the viewer moves closer, the illusion gives way to the discovery that every branch, texture, and shadow has been created from a single continuous, uninterrupted line that twists and bends through the composition without ever breaking or crossing itself.

The work's elongated vertical format reinforces the experience of standing beneath a great tree and looking skyward. Printed on heavyweight watercolour paper and suspended between reclaimed planks of century-old hardwood flooring, the work hangs more like a fibre tapestry than a conventional drawing. The salvaged wood functions as both structure and material memory, reconnecting the finished artwork to the forest from which it ultimately came. *Skyward Elm – Forest for the Trees #4,* 60” X24”, pen and ink, **$1,250**

MILES COHEN



My artwork can be seen as a commentary on environmental themes. The living tree is simultaneously protected and confined by plastic, a material often associated with pollution. By incorporating recycled plastic into the leaves, I blur the boundary between natural and synthetic worlds, inviting viewers to reflect on humanity's impact on forests and ecosystems. Overall, the work is rich in symbolism, using texture, transparency , and recycled materials to encourage reflection on conservation, sustainability, and the interconnectedness of nature and human activity.

Protect our Trees, 14” X 19” , mixed media, **$100**

NANCY LADNER



Creating this image has been such a privilege, and if it could talk, what stories it would tell us.

Still Going Strong, “15x12”, acrylic on Canvas
$250
SOLD

PAM LOSTRACCO



To celebrate Henry winning Tree of the Year, I created a piece that recognizes his survival through 160 years as part of Erin’s landscape. My practice is rooted in the importance of the local environment and native species and I would bring this connection into the work through both imagery and materials.

It will explore the multiple functions of wood as a valuable natural resource by painting on a wood panel using charcoal made from wood. Using this charcoal paint, I drew one ring at a time, beginning at the centre with year one (approximately 1866) and radiating outward through 160 rings to 2026. Each line will be carefully drawn as close to the previous one as possible, allowing the grain of the birch panel to remain visible between the charcoal lines. The circular format references a cross-section of a tree trunk, where the rings reveal its age. Each line will represent another year of Henry’s life while also reflecting the history that has unfolded around him in Erin. The cyclical movement of the rings will evoke both the growth of a tree and the passage of years. Selected years are highlighted through a different colour or a thicker line, creating a visual timeline within the 160 rings. These include significant moments in Erin’s history such as 1900, when the first power company was established; 1910, when telephone service arrived; 1930, the arrival of Dutch Elm Disease; 1945, the Globe Hotel fire; 1999, amalgamation; 2013, the Erin Mill fire; and 2026, when Henry was named Tree of the Year.
The result will be both a portrait of a remarkable tree and a meditation on time, place, natural resources, and the history held within a landscape.
Rings of Life, 20”, charcoal, **$1,200**

ROSALINDE BAUMGARTNER



Finding out about Henry, about Erin's Tree Trust was a happy surprise for me. Wei have lived in the Erin township for 47 years and we still learn new things.
I love trees, we have planted so many since we moved to our farm. Next year we plan to have Grand River Conservation reforest some of our land. We also have a large living elm tree in our bush. Did the University take some of Henry's genetic? We know they are trying to create seedlings that are resistant to disease.
I have enjoyed doing this painting, it was a challenge.
Reaching for the Sky, 24x35 inches - watercolour on canvas, **$500**

SUSAN JEPHCOTT



"When I was a little girl we had a very tall beautiful Elm tree beside our driveway. Every year an Orioles would come build their nest high in the branches....they were wonderfully brilliant orange and black and wonderful to watch. One day the driveway had to be paved and the tree had to come down. I was very sad. My Dad said there was no choice ....and I think he was sad too. Suddenly the tree was down....the nest was on the ground but still intact. Dad gave it to me as a treasure to keep. So in memory of all this, I did a painting to celebrate and honour Henry.
Be in peace with Mother Earth.

*"Elm Leaves and Oriole" ,*10"x 10" x 1 1/2", acrylic. **SOLD**

SUSAN POWELL



I love mother trees and Erin's first tree of the year is "Henry", a 160 year old American Elm that has survived the elm disease in the 1950-60"s and has watched over the town of Erin for more than a century and a half. He has been a welcome beacon to me each time I drove - welcoming back home - a distinct and brilliant landmark that has stood the test of time.

The Elder Henry, 18”x 36 “x 1.5, acrylic.
$350

YASAMAN MEHRSA



This piece explores the tree as a symbol of strength, connection, and resilience. Trees grow through changing seasons, withstand storms, and continue to reach toward the light. Their roots connect them to the earth, while their branches create space for life around them.

The horse represents another form of resilience. Its strength, movement, and quiet presence create a connection with the tree; Two symbols of endurance existing together within the same landscape. The forms, bird, plant, and celestial elements around the tree suggest that the relationships between living things bring a sense of movement and life to the scene.

The piece creates a dreamlike and slightly mysterious moment in a quiet night, where the living elements come together in a sense of harmony, connection, and peace.

Between Earth and Sky, Mixed Media (Acrylic, Oil Pastel, Marker & Air-Dry Clay), 40 (h) x30 (w) x 1 (d) inches, **$1,200**

HANNAH HIEMSTRA



"Art is such an untapped and powerful method of science communication. It is something we can all connect through, yet it touches each of us in uniquely personal ways. I believe art has the ability to make complex scientific and environmental issues feel more accessible, emotional, and human. My master's research explored how we can leverage technology to help conserve wildlife in the face of climate change, while also examining the intersection of art and science as a space for developing innovative climate solutions. Being part of Erin Tree Trust and helping bring this show to life has been such a dream. Through my work, I hope to remind us of just how many seasons of Erin this one remarkable tree has witnessed. Henry has stood through generations of change, quietly becoming part of the landscape, the community, and the memories of the people who live here. *Henry in Late Summer,* watercolour/ink, 9" X 6", **$85 SOLD**

It is truly amazing to see how many people feel connected to this one special tree. This exhibition is a powerful reminder of what would be lost if we were ever to lose Henry.



Henry is so much more than a tree - he is a living record of the town, a symbol of connection, and a reminder of the natural world we are all responsible for protecting.

Henry in Winter, 9" X 6", watercolour/ink, **$85 SOLD**

ARTISTS CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Bridget Ryan

Camille Hutton

Carol Hughes

Christine Currie

Christine Paris

Deb Dunn

Donna Bigonzi

Emma Bramma

Fariba Kalantari

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Hanna Hiemstra

Huan Zhao

Indra Dosanjh

Jamie Reaume

Juanita Landon

Jo Cost

Karin Silverstone

Kasia Charko

Lynne Huras

Meike Brucker

Meredyth Kutt

Mike Salisbury

Miles Cohen

Nancy Ladner

Pam Lostracco

Rosalinde Baumgartner

Susan Jephcott

Susan Powell

Yasaman Mehrsa